

REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended to more clearly define Applicants' claimed invention. Claim 4 has been added. Support for Claim 4 can be found for example at page 5, first full paragraph of the present specification. Thus, no new matter has been added. Upon entry of this Amendment, which is respectfully requested, Claims 1-4 will be all the claims pending in the application.

Response to Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph and second paragraph

Claims 1-3 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as assertedly failing to comply with the enablement requirement, and second paragraph, as assertedly being indefinite.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the carcass layer and the rubber layer B are compounded with a cobalt compound. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1-3 comply with the § 112, first paragraph, and second paragraph. Accordingly, withdrawal of these rejections is requested.

Response to Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-3 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over JP 9-272308 ("JP '308") or JP 10-297209 ("JP '209") taken in view of JP 2001-260609 ("JP '609"), JP 2614441 ("JP '441") and U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0,134,480 to Taguchi, optionally further in view of at least one of GB 2072576 ("GB '576") or U.S. Patent No. 2,575,249 to Connell. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The present invention relates to a heavy duty pneumatic tire comprising an inner face protection layer between a carcass layer and an innerliner layer. The innerliner layer is

comprised of two rubber layers A and B. The sulfur amounts in rubber layer A, rubber layer B and the carcass layer satisfy the particular claimed relationships.

JP '308 discloses that the tie rubber between the radial ply and the innerliner is comprised of two rubber layers, but fails to disclose or suggest the claimed relationship between the amount of sulfur in the rubber layers and the carcass layer.

JP '209 discloses the use of two rubber layers as an inner face protection layer between a carcass layer and an innerliner layer, but fails to disclose or suggest the claimed relationship between the amount of sulfur in the rubber layers and the carcass layer.

JP '609 discloses a single rubber layer disposed between the carcass layer and the innerliner layer. JP '609 fails to disclose or suggest two rubber layers.

Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill based on the combination of JP '308 or '209 with JP '609. Further, JP '441, Taguchi, GB '576 and Connell all fail to disclose or suggest the claimed relationship between the amount of sulfur in the rubber layers and the carcass layer. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
Application No.: 10/509,868

Attorney Docket No.: Q83993

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

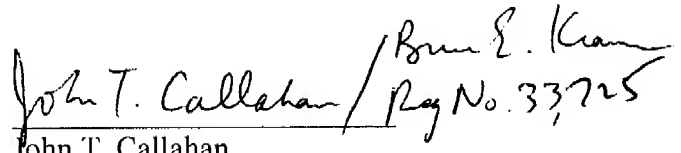
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